

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

I believe Sinclair's running of this film is only being done to promote the company's owner's own political views at the expense of fairness and truly free discourse. I consider it as an improper and illegal "in kind" contribution to the Bush campaign, and is not in keeping with current "equal time" policies regarding political campaigns. It should NOT be allowed to occur without Sinclair offering the same amount of air time to opposing views. Since this appears unlikely to happen, Sinclair should instead withdraw the film. If Sinclair will not do this, then the FCC should do everything within its power to make sure that the right thing is done and that this film does not run.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.